

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# QUALITY IRIS

From

## FAIRY GARDENS

NAPOLEON, OHIO

### VERY EARLY

Except one possible exception, all varieties are Super Iris for their season.

***Kotchil	.35	Doxa	2.00
***Florentina Alba	.35	Pagusa	5.00
***Firmament	.35	***Queen Flavia	.35
Nymph	.85	*Yellow Hammer	.35
*Ariel	.35	San Gabriel	.35

### EARLY AND MEDIUM EARLY

All varieties are fine to extra fine and some are super Iris for their season.

***Gold Crest	.35	*True Charm	.35
**Crusader	.35	*Mrs. Tinley	.35
*Mad Gaudichau	.35	Gold Imperial	.35
*Ballerine	.35	Sophonla	1.50
Buto	1.75	Pioneer	.60
*Ute Chief	.35	San Francisco	4.50
***Georgia	.35	Simone Vassiere	.35
Yellow Moon	.35	Jubilee	.40
*Rita	.35	Mrs. Robert Emmett	2.00
*Mary Gibson	.35	Gaviota	.40
Desert Gold	20.00	Wm. Mohr	2.50
*Regan	.35		

### EXPLANATORY

\* \*\* \*\*\* denote that this many extra medium size roots will be given gratis. Sometimes some of these extras are Super size.

### SPECIAL PRICES

Alt Iris in above lists at 35c are 3 for \$1.00. Five for \$1.65. Ten at 30c each. This include the extra roots designated.

### NEW AND SCARCE VARIETIES

With few exceptions all varieties are Super Iris for their season. There are reasons good and plenty why quite a number of sorts are not in this very select list.

Amneris	2.00	L'Aiglon	1.60
.25 Asia	.45	Moa	1.75
Arlette	.50	Mestor	.45
Allure	7.00	.25 Mildred Presby	.45
.20 Ann Page	.40	Mary Barnett	1.50
Azulado	.50	Majenta	8.00
Beau Ideal	.25	1.00 Midgard	2.00
.50 Bruno	.85	.25 Morning Splendor	.45
Snow White	1.50	Morning Glory	15.00
Blue Banner	6.00	.40 Mrs. Marion Cran	.75
Collas	.35	1.25 Mme. Cecil Bouscant	2.50
Cardinal	2.75	Nehawka	2.00
Cinnabar	2.75	Mrs. Valerie West	10.00
2.75 Camillard	3.00	Omaha	3.50
Coronation	3.50	Purple Haze	1.40
.25 C. A. Stringer	.45	.35 Prairie Gold	.60
.50 Duke of Bedford	1.00	.25 Princess Osra	.45
Day Dream	7.00	Phie D'Orr	15.00
.75 El Capitan	1.40	1.00 Rhineland	1.85
Elsa	2.00	Rayo De Sol	7.50
1.00 Frieda Mohr	2.00	.50 Robert W. Wallace	1.00
Fascination	9.00	Red Wing	3.25
.75 Germaine Perthuis	1.35	4.00 Rameses	6.50
Grace Sturtevant	9.00	1.00 Souv. Michaud	2.00
Gabriel	1.75	.50 Trostinger	1.00
Horizon	1.00	.25 27th Averil	.50
.25 Iduna	.45	Wambliska	20.00
King Karl	.50	Violet Lake	1.25
.25 Lona	.50	Zulu	1.25
Le Corregge	3.00	Sir Michael	9.00

### EXPLANATORY

Prices to left of some varieties means that for this price that a medium or second size root will be supplied. This size will insure bloom the second season or the next season after the Mother rhizome has bloomed. Experience has proven that the offshoots from a bloom-rhizome will not always flower the second season. Avoid possible disappointment the second season of no bloom.

Note—Three super-size Mother rhizomes can be supplied in some varieties at a reduction.

## Good Fine and Extra Fine STANDARD IRIS

Varieties in this list are the very cream of the old timers, older sorts and newer varieties now low in price. These Irises are the backbone of every fine Iris collection and beginners and others should buy most of them first of all. Rely on Fairy Gardens selections.

***Argynnis	*Geo. Yeld	**Rhine Traube
**Ambassadeur	Imperator	**Rhine Nixle
**Balaruc	***Isoline	*Yvonne Pelletier
***B. Y. Morrison	*Kashmir White	***Quaker Lady
***Corrida	*Joya	***Queen Caterina
***Dream	Jaqueline Gullot	***Lohengrin
**E. H. Jenkins	***Pink Mad Cherau	***W. J. Fryer
*Flammenswert	Princess Beatrice	***White Queen
*Mystle	***Prosper Langier	Rose Maddar
***Massasoit	*Rose Salterne	***Prin. Vic Louise
*Susan Bliss	***Seminole	***Magnifica
***Aurora	***Dusky Maid	***Vlo. Grandiflora

### SPECIAL PRICES

All fine and extra fine standard Iris are 35c each, 3 for \$1.00 five for \$1.65. Ten at 30c each. Six of a variety \$1.25. This includes the extra root designated.

### MORE SPECIAL PRICES

Special quotations will be given on 3, 5 or more of some of the higher priced varieties.

### SIBERIAN IRIS

Are fine for cutting and massing and a few varieties should be in every garden. The varieties in this list are the very cream of all the Siberians, except possibly a few at very high prices some of these are strangers. Don't trust them?

Note—The prices for Siberians are for medium size clumps that will be sure to bloom.

Perrys Blue, wonderful sky blue	.35
Emperor, dark purple blue, fine	.35
Blue King, fine intense brilliant blue	.35
Kingfisher Blue	.50

Kingfisher blue is no better than Perry's blue. Tested it for five years and saw it in other gardens, so I can speak with authority.

### PLEASE

Don't ask me not to substitute. Substituting has helped keep me poor.

### LOW PRICES

Are due to increase of stock, preparedness to meet new low prices and quote still lower prices. Don't for a moment have any doubt about getting what is ordered from Fairy Gardens.

### THE BEST IN THE WORLD

I am not the only grower who sends out good Iris roots but I will make the broad claim of sending out the best and giving the most painstaking Iris service in the world.



## FAIRY GARDENS QUALITY STOCK

Prices quoted are for extra selected thick, broad and heavy single blooming size roots. Most of them were transplanted last season and having two years growth are almost certain to bloom the first season. If I was content to send out the offsets of this seasons growth that some send out, my prices would be still lower and at more profit.

### SUPER MOTHER ROOTS

Are offered to quality buyers who are willing to pay a little bit more for the almost in blooming size roots that money will buy. Extra money cannot buy happiness, but it will come close to it if a little bit more is used to buy Super size Mother Iris roots from Fairy Gardens.

### DEFINITION OF SIZES

First size Super-Mother rhizom, a broad, thick, heavy single root, generally with 3, 4 or more babies attached. 95% should bloom the first season. The very best buy if only one of a variety is purchased. Most certain in bloom and having more babies gives the almost increase.

Note 1—Only a limited number of super roots available every season. After these are sold I give 2 second size, except higher and high priced sorts, when one 2nd size is given and difference in price is refunded.

Note 2—Roots shipped during the summer will not show any babies until some growth has been made in the fall.

### NOT DIVISIONS

My super size Iris roots are not divided, except sometimes when an extra large root that is up to grade is found on the outside of a clump. Most of my largest size Mother roots were transplanted a year ago and were second size when planted. It must be admitted that such roots are almost certain to bloom the first season.

### A GOOD TEST

Rather late one fall I planted 35 Princess Beatrice and 25 Isoline in blooming size roots. 30 of the Princess bloomed and 20 Isoline. Certainly a very good showing for supposed shy bloomers. It is significant that these roots bloomed after fall planting. Moral. Plant blooming size Iris roots from Fairy Gardens.

## A Convincing Illustration

This Spring some Super-size Mother Rhizomes of Ballerine and Gaudichau were left over from Spring sales. After replanting every root bloomed. These two are slow growers and some sent out need another years growth. *Fairy Gardens Super-size Mother Rhizomes bloom because they are matured and have the age.*

### WHO CAN ANSWER?

It seems that slow growing Iris are more certain to bloom if not planted early but planted later on. Note under "A convincing illustration" how well some Spring planted roots bloomed. The previous summer some roots from this same row were shipped to a Detroit estate early in the season, all roots especially selected and not one bloomed. It seems that slow growing Iris should have time to form bloom buds before transplanting. Let someone give a better answer.

### A REMARKABLE SHOWING

A year after 25 more Ballerine were sold this Detroit estate and the roots shipped early in September. The next season 23 of these roots bloomed certainly a remarkable showing for an Iris said to be a shy bloomer (shy from shy roots.) This conclusively proves that at least the slower growing Iris should not be planted early. Don't forget that when this fact is generally accepted, that it was first proven by *Fairy Gardens*.

### ANTICIPATION

Last season an order was received from an Arkansas Iris Grower for a super-size rhizome of the Iris Coronation. Knowing that all growers have "big eyes" (probably including myself.) I selected a monster root for shipment. A week later a letter was received from this customer, stating that the root was small and he wondered whether this root had been selected by an employee. My answer was to send this root right back and a refund would be forthcoming.

### REALIZATION

A month later this grower wrote me again, stating that he had visited the originator of Coronation, purchased more roots and that they were not near as large as the one received from me and that an apology was due me for his complaint and more Coronation were ordered.

### MAKING GOOD

Of the letters received proving the quality of Fairy Gardens Iris roots was selected for publication.

### JOYFUL REALIZATION

Little Rock, Ark.  
June 15, 1931.

The big root of Coronation purchased from you last season had two bloom stalks. You remember I raised sand about the size of it. Its O K now.

Note—My super-size Coronation this season are even larger and there is a very good chance of most of them throwing two bloom stalks. A good blooming size can be supplied for \$3.00 and a gamble size for \$2.50.

### NOT A PRACTICE

I do not make a practice of accepting returning of Iris roots even from growers because of supposed lack of size, much less from inexperienced persons and beginners. As a general rule my judgment and verdict on a real Super-size Mother rhizome must be accepted, or else payment made for my time. On account of the great claims made for sending out sure blooming size roots, I have a reputation to maintain and a chance will not be taken of sending out roots of doubtful blooming size. A satisfied customer often means repeat orders and new customers are expensive to draw by advertising, which is a gamble.

### THEY CANNOT GET BY

Few, if any, of the slower growers will bloom from yearling fresh green so-called rhizomes. Stacks of slow growers are often small and blooming size roots are smaller still, and as quite a number of slow growers are higher in price, no grower can afford to give an extra root to make up for lack of size, but they can refund part of the purchase price, which is the Fairy Gardens way. Most growers "keep still" when a higher priced or high priced undersized root is sent out or think that they can throw dust in the eyes of the buyer by giving an extra root of a cheaper or fast grower and leave it go at that. Such camouflage will not let them get by, and eventually all such stinger growers will be forced to disgorge or fork over their attempted ill gotten gains by *Fairy Gardens* intelligent way of doing business.

### WHAT DOES IT AVAIL

To save 15c, 25c, 35c, 50c or a dollar or more on half grown undersized yearling fresh green so-called rhizomes and lose the first year's bloom or the gain of greater increase from Super size two year Mother real rhizomes. Why take a chance on disappointment? Is it worth while? Why not try Fairy Gardens best-by-test real blooming size Iris roots?

### NOT INFALLIBLE

Absolutely not every single root of a real super-size Mother rhizome sent out from Fairy Gardens will be certain to bloom the first season, but at least 95 per cent will. Once in a while one of my supers will miss because the side offshoots grow off too fast for the main center blooming shoot, sapping its strength and preventing it blooming, and on rare occasions the bloom bud inside the blooming rhizome is injured and fails to develop.

### HOW MUCH IS GAINED?

Even if a real super-size Iris rhizomes misses blooming, there is still the great gain of the greater increase from the extra babies clinging to such a size root.

### BUNCH ROOTS

Some Western growers send out bunch roots, all matted together and a knife is needed for division and of many of these there is not a blooming size among them. Others send out a cluster of roots and not so many of these have a blooming size among them. Bunch roots should not be experimented with by inexperienced persons and the cluster roots will make no more increase and not so sure of bloom. The very best buy of all are *Fairy Gardens* personally selected thick, heavy, broad, real super-size Mother Rhizomes.

## Early Iris Supremacy

## FIRMAMENT

## ABOVE ALL

### HISTORY OF FIRMAMENT

Twenty-five years ago when I commenced to study and collect Irises this finest of all very early blue varieties was discovered at the Old Homestead (now a memory) in a clump of Florentina Alba. Even at that time when I did not have the power of discrimination that has been acquired since, it impressed me as being extra fine. So it was removed and planted away by itself as a treasure to be guarded against any possible loss; and everyone who buys Firmament will guard it when it is considered that it is invested with some romance.

Every year as it bloomed again I was impressed by the beautiful light blue standard and dark violet blue of the falls set off by the good sized bright orange beard. Visitors would remark what a beautiful thing it was. Eventually the plants increased so much that they were removed to an open field, planted along side and between the rows of other blue and purple varieties. This one was singled out for special praise by visitors; when it was noticed from the roadway and people came in to see such a beautiful Iris.

Having sold a quantity of Firmament in Detroit, I bargained for some plants there to replenish my stock and made a special trip to mark the plants while they were still in bloom so that there would not be any possibility of getting somewhere else. Upon my arrival I had the Iris surprise of my life. Firmament was of such size, coloration and beauty that I had not seen excelled by any other light blue variety in my travels, nor in any of my own early lighter blue sorts.

The Detroit Firmament had finer blooms than my own plants bore for the reason that they were planted in richer soil. Never in my life did I see such Iris blooms as I saw at the Detroit estate. Firmament was given my new Iris as a name that would fittingly describe its beauty. There are other Irises more beautiful among the later sorts, but among the very early blue varieties Firmament is supreme.

## All Over the Land

East & West  
North & South  
Firmament Has Made Good

## The Verdict

Canada—Firmament is very fine; very good bloomer.

Texas—Firmament does exceptionally well in this climate.

Ky.—The Iris Firmament should have been named "The Orchid."

N. Y.—Firmament is great. For an early Iris it is a wonder.

Mich.—Seen in a clump in the sun, it's name is more than justified.

Ohio—Firmament is all right, only it comes so early when there are no shows.

ILL.—Enjoy your Firmament every year and have been pleased to see it establish its place when they tried so hard to knock it out.

Calif. An early season Iris of vigorous constitution; a particularly vivid and pleasing chicory blue with golden beard. Easily displaces most early blues.

The Firmament which I got from you was very fine. I am glad I have it. I had blue sports of Florentina alba of my own which I thought pretty good but they were not nearly as fine as Firmament.

"Probably the best of all Germanicas is the rich bicolor Firmament, very close to Pontriebie in type, the standard of delicate light blue and the falls of dark purple. This flower has fine form and unusual substance for an early Iris."

Ind—Every spring I think of you and the fine Iris "Firmament", that I purchased of you four years ago. It is as fine an Iris as I have in my collection of 200 varieties. One of the very earliest and attracts a great deal of attention. Send me your catalog.

### BELIEVE ME OR NOT

One of the first friends I met at the Ft. Wayne Peony show was my good friend from Indiana, an attorney, who asked me if I had any more of the fine hardy pink, Gladys Cranfield, for sale.

### CONFIDENCE

After reading the above in my preliminary Iris price list my friend writes me. "It was a pleasure to meet and get acquainted with you just by accident as we did at Ft. Wayne. I will have more confidence in you in the future, because I know you are sincere in your statements." Along with expression of good will was an order for 6 pinks, Gladys Cranfields and Irises, and a week later another order for Irises and stated that probably another order would be sent in when my entire list was received.

### HIGHEST PRAISE

"Firmament is a good companion to Florentina and Kochii in an early flowering planting."

Florentina and Kochii are of such high quality for their very early season that both are in a class by themselves and Firmament is like-wise in a class by itself for an extremely early light blue Iris.

### BLOWING MY HORN

Firmament eclipses all other very early blue Iris of its season.. The evidence proves that Firmament to be the finest American very early light blue Iris and one of the finest in existence.

### STILL SUPREME

Ever since Firmament was introduced in 1920 I have tested out rivals for supremacy a naturally a stinger rival appeared. Saphid, claimed to be the finest early blue and an improvement on Gold Crest has passed on. Ariel, while a fine shade of blue is not superior and not as valuable as Firmament.

### A FAILING

The only failing of Firmament is that during cool or chilly weather the blooms darken and are not beautiful, but other Irises have this short-coming and Firmament blooming so extremely early, this failing can be excused.

### FIRMAMENT CANNOT BE KEPT DOWN

The attempt of some of the higher-ups of the Iris Society in attempting to prevent Firmament from becoming known has availed them nothing. Firmament has won its way and to this day has held its own and on account of its extremely early season will hold its own for some years. A good thing cannot be kept down, neither can a good Iris be kept down.

### AN EVIL THING

The jurors of the Iris Symposium have dilly-dallied, shilly-shallied and fiddled through three Symposiums and the last one is as bad as the first. Such poor judgment and wretched, execrable taste was shown by some of the jurors that the entire jury should be discharged and a new one selected who are competent enough to rate Iris with more reason and common sense. In every Symposium some of the novelties were far over-rated and some of the older varieties that have stood the test of time were under-rated. Neither the innocent buying public or growers are protected. **Don't trust the Iris Symposium, it is an evil thing.**

### IN THE MAKING

For at least a year more Fairy Gardens will not be attractive except when flowers are in bloom. The grounds are churned up like a battlefield. In two or three years Fairy Gardens will be one of the best places to study Iris. No commonplace varieties will be found.

**Double Rhizomes.** Are desirable, providing one is real blooming size. My experience has been that some sent out are both medium in size. The best way to be sure of bloom is to buy Fairy Gardens Super-size and another medium size to get a good start, "right off." **Fading Iris.** Following are undesirable because they fade in hot sunshine. Lent A, Williamson, Prospero, Mother of Pearl, Coppersmith.

### THE EARLY PLANTING OBSESSION

The experience with Ballerine may also apply to the faster growing Iris. All signs point that way. Some persons are so obsessed by the notion of extreme early planting that no Iris roots are planted after August. Certainly an obsession.

### IT STANDS TO REASON

That it is not necessary to plant as early in states South from Minnesota. In the name of reason and common sense, why be governed by Northern latitudes? It does stand to reason that for States 200 miles South, planting can be done a month later and another 200 miles further South a month later still.

### THE CRAZE WILL DIE OUT

The stampede for extremely early planting of Iris will die out just as sure as the craze for planting Peony roots too shallow. One and a half, two and three inches deep. Until this season I stood alone in combatting this obsession.

Note—Both of these obsessions were brought into use by business men and not experienced growers.

### FALL PLANTED IRIS

The experience with Ballerine and Isoline certainly proves that all blooming size roots of supposed shy bloomers and others are planted even late in the fall that they will make good.

### Why Be The Goat

As an outlet for duplicate and obsolete Irises. Because you are a beginner is no reason for being an Iris Goat.

### Beginners Remember

That beginners in everything are invariably made the goat. It is difficult to get away. Rely on Fairy Gardens to avoid this ridiculous predicament.

### Beginners' Collection

Beware of inveigling collections that offer a whole raft of Irises for almost a song. Some growers are falling over themselves to unload a lot of old stuff on you. What you want is the very cream of the old timers, some sorts now low in price that are really fine and distinct. I got rid of commonplace things years ago and have no junk to foist off on you. Watch out for stingers! ! !

### A SECOND TIME

Some growers after loading up beginners with lot of old stuff are now going after beginners goats a second time. Assortments of new varieties are made up including a few of known quality and then an abnormal each price quoted and then the entire outfit offered as a collection at a great reduction. Why be a goat a second time?

### Tricks In All Trades

A game often used to get rid of surplus Irises, slow sellers, obsolete stuff, has-beens, and never will-be Irises, is to include some in all collections which compels the buyer to take them whether wanted or not. Why be deluded by these old fashioned collections. They are out of date and if you fail for them you will get some Irises that are out of date also.

### Why My Selections Are The Best

Greatest possible color range through all seasons aimed to include enough lavender, blue and purple in every dozen so that "real Iris colors" will continue to dominate the collection as every dozen is added. This refining has been carried to such a fine point that not many will soon be obsolete. It would be wisdom for anyone with limited funds and only a few Irises, to buy more of each of some varieties and wait a year before buying higher priced sorts. If many of these are already in collections, go right ahead and stretch the Iris budget to its extreme limit. Fairy Gardens can be trusted.

### Remember

My years of experience in continually refining down to the very best only. Do you believe I would have as many undesirable sorts as some growers who have been growing Irises for ten or fifteen years only?

### Another Reason

My plantings during all these years have been moved from one location to another three times. There is no more compelling way to make a grower eliminate.

### IRISES FOR BEGINNERS

Every best dozen must be altered every year or some varieties will be as obsolete as a last years bird's nest. Fairy Gardens best dozen lists for beginners and others are the utmost, the last word in Iris selections.

### MY ANSWER

My concentration is the answer to new growers who boast of 200 to 500 varieties, which shows inability to intelligently eliminate. At the most, 150 varieties would cover the field for a few years to come.

**12 Best Early**—Kochii, Florentina, Firmament, Queen Flavia, Gold Crest, Mad Gaudichan, Georgia, Crusader, Ballerine, Yellow Hammer, Ariel, Zua, Nymph.

**12 Best Medium Early**—True Charm, Simone Vaissiere, Yellow Moon, Pioneer, Mary Gibson, Ute Chief, Rita, Gold Imperial, Bluet, Mrs. Tinley, Lohengrin, Egan, Wm. Mohr, San Francisco.

**12 Best Late**—Princess Beatrice, Rhine Nixie, Dream Isoline, Prosper Langier, Queen Caterina, B. Y. Morrison, Colias, Ambassador, E. H. Jenks, Ivo, Grandiflora, Quaker Lady, Seminole, Jacqueline Quillot, Mystic, Kashmir Whitefi Collas, Susan Bilss, Imperator.

**12 More Best Late**—Asia, Morning Splendor, 27th Averil, Mildred Presby, Jubilee, Prairie Gold, Lona, Robt. W. Wallace, Trostinger, Duke of Bedford, Mrs. Marion Cran, Lona, Princess Osra, Silver Ribbon and then add some more that were omitted then make up a new Iris budget, make another selection and keep on going, remembering that Fairy Gardens selections are reliable.

### NOTE

There is not one "never was, has been, get rid of, unload, or close out Iris" in above lists. A few more would have been included but these are sold out this season.

### GUARANTEE

All varieties absolutely guaranteed true to name. If a mistake is made, replacement will be made with a *large root*, not a small thing.

### CHANGE OF PRICES

The right is reserved to advance prices without notice as the supply of some varieties become depleted. A fair deposit will reserve most varieties.

### POSTPAID

All orders postpaid except accomodation orders.

### ACCOMODATION ORDERS

Orders for lowset cost varieties less than 75c, 25c extra for postage. Same kind of order less than one dollar, 20c extra for postage. Same kind of order less than \$1.25, 15c extra for postage. Same kind of order less than \$1.50, 10c extra for postage. Orders for higher priced Iris less than \$1.25, 15c extra for postage and packing.

**NOTE**—If postage is forgotten, roots will be shipped C. O. D. For postage which costs more.

### BUSINESS TERMS

Cash with order, except persons known to me. No credit orders under \$15.00.

### Payments

Should be made out to H. W. Groschner, or Fairy Gardens, Napoleon, Ohio.